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May 15, 1985

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

May 15, 1985

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Madison County Containers

Madison County Commissioners, P.O. Box 278, Virginia City, MT
Town of Sheridan, P. O. Box 78, Sheridan, MT
Town of Twin Bridges, P. O. Box 307, Twin Bridges, MT
Town of Ennis, P. O. Box 147, Ennis, MT
Town of Virginia City, P. O. Box 35, Virginia City, MT
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT
Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Madison County Solid Waste District, Container Program.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAY 20 1985

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6th AVE.
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

JEL:vc
Encls.

Sincerely,

JAMES E. LEITER
Solid and Hazardous Waste Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences/Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau

Project or Application Madison County Solid Waste Container Program

Description of Project Madison County has applied for a solid waste management system license for nine 40 yard transfer container sites in the county.

The containers will replace existing unapproved dump site facilities and be used to transfer garbage to the licensed county landfill site at Ennis, Montana. Copies of the application and more specific information on the sites and the program may be obtained by contacting this bureau.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality				X		
5. Aesthetics				X		
6. Air quality						
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Madison County Sanitarian

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS Not Necessary

PER Prepared by: _____

James E. Leiter
James E. Leiter

Date: May 14, 1985

General Comments

It is difficult to write an environmental assessment of the Madison County Container Program without also addressing the impact assumed by the closure of the associated open dump sites which the containers will have replaced. In areas such as protection of groundwater, surface water, human health and aesthetics the improvement through implementation of the program should be dramatic. This preliminary environmental review, however, will be more limited to anticipated impact from the container program itself.

Potential Impact on Physical Environment

- 8) Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy
- The container sites described on the attachment will require that from approximately 1.5 to 20 acres of land will be set aside for use as container sites for some time in the future. Since the majority of the sites will be placed on or near existing open dump sites, land useage, as such, will not be changed dramatically. In those few other areas, small portions of land will be reserved for the collection and transfer of solid waste and will consequently be unavailable for other uses.

Potential Impacts on Human Environment

- 10) Demands for Government Services
- The operation of the container program is being contracted to private enterprise. There will be some consumption in government services for administrative operation of the system, including contracting, site acquisition, etc.
- 12) Demands for Energy
- Operation of the transfer vehicle will, of necessity, require the consumption of some fossil fuel resources. The impact is minor, however, and far less than that required for maintenance of other approved forms of solid waste disposal on a county wide basis.
- 14) Transportation Networks and traffic flow
- Since the containers will be transferred at least weekly to the disposal site at Ennis, there will be a minor alteration of traffic patterns in the area.



Location of Container Sites Being Proposed for Licensure

<u>Name of Site</u>	<u>Number of Containers</u>	<u>Size of Parcel</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
Silver Star	1	2.884 acres	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-26, T-35S, R-6N
Twin Bridges	2	1.5 acres	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-3, T-2S, R-5W
Sheridan	2	1.487 acres	Sec. 12, T-5S, R-5W
Alder	1	20 acres	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S-9, T-6S, R-4W
Harrison	1	5.171 acres	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-30, T-2S, R-1W
Norris	1	1.5 acres	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S-26, T-3S, R-1W
Ennis	2	2.008 acres	Sec. 28, T-5S, R-1W
South Madison	1	1.435 acres	Sec. 6, T-10S, R-1E
Virginia City	2	3.307 acres	Sec. 22, T-6S, R-3W

Key:

Sec./S - Section

T - Township

R - Range

